

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/902,703

Examiner

Houshang Safaipoor

Applicant(s)

FUKAWA, KIMIHIKO

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to May 27, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15,17-23,25 and 27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER (PTO)

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND ALLOWANCE

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of issue fee.

This examiner's amendment is prepared based on the telephone conversation with John A. Krause (Reg. No. 24,613) on October 18, 2005.

Claims 1, 3, and 11 are amended as follow:

Claim 1: An image processing apparatus for sensing a an continuous multiple chip ~~extending~~ image and for generating data representing the image comprising:

a plurality of sensor chips connected to one another and positioned relative to each other so as to collectively receive ~~the a continuous multiple chip extending~~ image extending over multiple ones of said sensor chips without an insensitive region therebetween caused by circuit wiring, each sensor chip including a first pixel row and a second pixel row , which are formed on the same semiconductor chip, the first pixel row having a plurality of pixels arranged in a main scanning direction, and the second pixel row having a plurality of pixels shifted along the main scanning direction with respect to the first pixel row.

Claim 3: An image processing apparatus for sensing a an continuous multiple chip ~~extending~~ image and for generating data representing the image comprising:

a plurality of sensor chips connected to one another and positioned relative to each other so as to collectively receive ~~the a continuous multiple chip extending~~ image extending over multiple ones of said sensor chips without an insensitive region therebetween caused by circuit wiring, each sensor chip including a first pixel row and a second pixel row, which are formed on the same semiconductor chip, the first pixel row having a plurality of pixels arranged in a main scanning direction, and the second pixel row having a plurality of pixels shifted along the main scanning direction with respect to the first pixel row.

Claim 11: An image processing apparatus for sensing a ~~an continuous multiple chip extending~~ image and for generating and transmitting data representing the image comprising:

a plurality of sensor chips connected to one another and whose imaging regions are positioned relative to each other so as to collectively receive ~~the a continuous multiple chip extending~~ image extending over multiple ones of said sensor chips without an insensitive region therebetween caused by circuit wiring, each of said plurality of sensor chip including:

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-23, 25 and 27 are allowed.

This is examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The instant invention recites an image processing apparatus for sensing and image and for generating data representing the image comprising:

Art Unit: 2627

a plurality of sensor chips connected to one another and positioned relative to each other so as to collectively receive a continuous image extending over multiple ones of said sensor chips without an insensitive region therebetween caused by circuit wiring, each sensor chip including a first pixel row and a second pixel row, which are formed on the same semiconductor chip, the first pixel row having a plurality of pixels arranged in a main scanning direction, and the second pixel row having a plurality of pixels shifted along the main scanning direction with respect to the first pixel row.

The features identified, in combination with other claim limitations, are neither suggested nor discussed by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Houshang Safaipoor whose telephone number is (571)272-7412. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 6:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles, Sr. can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2627

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Houshang Safaipoor
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2627
October 26, 2005


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